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**PRESS RELEASE:****Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver partners with EPA to build greener homes**

*Groundbreaking at first ENERGY STAR, WaterSense and Indoor airPLUS labeled residence in Golden, CO.*

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**(Denver, Colo.-Sept.14, 2011)** Today in Golden ground was broken at the first ENERGY STAR, WaterSense and Indoor airPLUS affordable home in the nation. This Habitat for Humanity duplex will be the first home to be built to a trio of EPA new homes programs that sets standards for energy efficiency, water conservation and healthy indoor air in residential home construction.

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver (HFHMD) has partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by committing to use the new ENERGY STAR Version 3 guidelines, as well as Indoor airPLUS, and WaterSense guidelines in all future home building.

HFHMD is the first affordable homes builder in the nation to partner with EPA on these three programs, as well as the first Habitat affiliate in the nation to do so. This partnership is likely to expand to all Habitat affiliates and by example, to many homebuilders across the country. This duplex will be the first of over 40 homes to be built by Habitat in 2012.

"With this and future building projects, Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver is setting the example that healthy and efficient homes are not a luxury – they're a necessity in these tough economic times," said Jim Martin, EPA's Regional Administrator. "These homes will also contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases, save thousands of gallons of precious water resources and keep toxic materials out of the environment."

"Habitat for Humanity understands the importance of building high-quality, healthy and sustainable homes that families can live and thrive in well into the future," said Heather Lafferty, CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver. "That's why our affiliate has focused on building green, energy-efficient homes which have been ENERGY STAR tested for more than a decade. These measures help save homeowners hundreds of dollars each year on utility costs, while also providing them with a healthy living environment."

**About Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver:**

Habitat for Humanity is a homeownership program for low-income families. It engages the community in building high quality, energy-efficient homes which are sold to hard-working families in desperate need of stable, affordable housing. Qualified families purchase Habitat homes with zero-interest loans and make mortgage payments based on 25 percent of the family's income. Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver has built 450 homes throughout its 32-year history of building in Denver. For more information about Habitat for Humanity, please visit [www.habitatmetrodenver.org](http://www.habitatmetrodenver.org).







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# New Homes – Affordable AND Sustainable

In September, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to kickoff construction of a new Habitat for Humanity project for two families in need. The property at 708 Iowa Street is planned for a duplex, with the intent of providing additional opportunities for affordable housing. The City worked with the property owner to arrange its acquisition by the Jefferson County Housing Authority, using federal Community Development Block Grant funding.



*Future homeowner Wendy Young (third from right) and her extended family members at the groundbreaking ceremony.*

This is not your typical Habitat home, though. This Habitat for Humanity duplex in Golden will be the first home in the nation to be built to a trio of EPA new home programs that set standards for energy efficiency, water efficiency and healthy indoor air in residential home construction. Here's a look at how the standards will increase their home performance:

**Energy Star.** Energy Star certified homes are 20 to 30 percent more efficient than standard homes and use substantially less energy for heating, cooling, and water

heating which delivers \$200 to \$400 in annual savings. The homes will exceed current building code requirements by 15 percent.

**WaterSense.** WaterSense labeled homes are designed to use 20 percent less water, indoors and out; resulting in cost savings of \$600 a year. A WaterSense labeled home can save a family of four as much as 50,000 gallons of water a year – enough to wash more than 2,000 loads of laundry.

**Indoor airPLUS.** Homes built with Indoor airPLUS incorporate more than 30 design and construction features to help protect you against pollutants

such as moisture and mold control, radon resistant construction, improved heating and air conditioning design and installation, advanced air filtration, fresh air ventilation, combustion safety, insect barriers and steps to reduce levels of chemicals in the home.

If affordable homes can also be sustainable, this project may just be a win-win-win for Golden residents, our economy, and our environment.

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## Protecting Golden's Women

For nearly one year now, the Golden Police Department has offered monthly classes for women in self defense, and participants are learning that it is much more than self defense... it is self awareness and empowerment. The program is called Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Systems.

R.A.D. teaches realistic, self defense tactics and techniques. It is a comprehensive course for women over the age of 16 that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance while progressing to the basics of hands-on defense training.

In addition to instruction, students are given the opportunity to participate in a simulated scenario against a real "aggressor" to demonstrate and practice techniques learned in the class. "This may be the best \$30 investment I have made," said City Councilor Marica Claxton, who was a participant. "The class includes learning about the law, psychology and other cultural aspects of rape and how to be aware of your surroundings and rely on your intuition and other strengths and tools." Another participant wrote a thank you letter to the instructors which said, "Thank you City of

Golden for caring enough about the women of Golden for providing such an empowering, informative program."

The class is \$30/residents, \$35/non-residents for four Saturday sessions, each about 3-4 hours. Once you pay for the initial class, you can return at any time for refresher classes, as well as practice time at future R.A.D. class offerings without an additional charge.

The next R.A.D. class begins on Nov. 7 and space is limited. To sign up, contact Dispatcher Shanyn Cascia at 303-384-8045 or [scascia@cityofgolden.net](mailto:scascia@cityofgolden.net).

# Responsible Building



Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver is one of the greenest homebuilders in Colorado. We have focused on incorporating energy-efficiency practices into every home for two core reasons.

## 1. Benefits to our Homeowners

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver builds energy-efficient homes to help low-income homeowners save hundreds of dollars annually on utility expenses. These savings add significant discretionary income that can be used for other needs, helping families achieve economic self-sufficiency.

## 2. Benefits to the Environment

Green building decreases the negative impact energy consumption has on the environment. The less energy a house uses, the less coal is burned to produce electricity, thereby emitting less carbon dioxide into the earth's atmosphere. Habitat's recycling and green building practices also decrease the detrimental impacts construction has on the earth.

# About Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver is a non-profit, Christian homeownership organization that builds and sells affordable homes in partnership with low-income families who desperately need a decent place to live.

Habitat homes are not given away. Homeowner families invest 250 hours of "sweat equity" labor (per applicant) into building their homes, and purchase the homes with zero-interest mortgages. All mortgage payments are reinvested to fund construction of future homes. Other funding is raised locally through individuals, faith groups, corporations, grants, and the Habitat ReStores.

Volunteers are always needed on the construction site, in the office, on committees, and at the Habitat ReStores. Join us, we have many more homes and lives to build!

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# Green Building



Habitat for Humanity's energy-efficiency, recycling and green building practices in affordable housing construction.





# Green Construction Design Elements

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver's homes receive an average ENERGY STAR rating of 57, representing a 43% improvement in efficiency over a standard code-built home. This equates to an annual cost savings of approximately \$400 per home.

## Heating

Habitat homes are oriented to maximize Southern window exposure when possible, to take advantage of passive solar heating in the winter.

## Location

Whenever possible, Habitat homes are built in dense neighborhoods that provide close access to public transportation, schools, and places for employment. This not only facilitates a smaller carbon footprint, but allows homeowners to cut fuel costs and decrease commute time.

## Indoor Air Quality

Habitat homes are designed to have healthy indoor air quality by placing windows on opposite and adjacent walls to allow for cross-ventilation. In addition, Habitat homes' crawl spaces' have 50 cubic feet per minute of continuous-run crawl space fans. The homes also incorporate non-toxic, low-voc primers and paints.



## 2010: Bails Townhome Community

This 24-townhome project is Habitat's largest green, multi-family, transit-oriented development in Denver. Designated as an Enterprise Green Community, and supported by the Home Depot Partners in Sustainable Building Grant, these homes integrated a variety of green building strategies and materials, creating a sustainable and affordable community.

## 2009: LEED Homes

Habitat completed two Gold LEED certified homes which were built with similar design elements and features incorporated into all Habitat homes in Denver.

## 2008: 11-Home Solar Community

Habitat developed a pilot program to test the cost-savings benefits of solar power by installing solar panels on 11 homes in Aurora. Each of the 11 homes were equipped with 2 to 3Kw photovoltaic systems, which were installed by volunteers and for-profit partners.

# Efficiency Features

- Raised heel trusses, R-38 attic insulation
- 2x6 walls with R-19 insulation
- Low-e vinyl windows
- 2' eave overhangs for shade in summer
- Exterior studs 24" on center
- Header design that allows 2" (R-11) rigid foam insulation in header space
- R-19 blanket insulation on crawlspace walls and in joist bays
- 2" concrete slab over 6-mil plastic sheeting on crawlspace floor
- One layer of ½" blue foam sheeting (R-3) over one layer of ½" OSB sheeting on exterior walls
- Edges of OSB exterior sheeting caulked before being nailed onto walls
- Exterior sheathing seams taped with building tape
- All building envelope penetrations sealed with sill seal, caulk, and/or spray foam
- 50 cubic feet per minute (cfm) continuous-run crawl space fan
- Gas range (optional) and dryer
- Front loading washing machine
- Programmable thermostat
- 92% efficient closed combustion furnace
- Tankless water heater
- Compact fluorescent lights
- All HVAC duct work sealed internally and tested
- Continuous ridge and soffit vents
- Site and building elevation design to allow maximum solar gain whenever possible